

# **The Mitman Sun News**

Newsletter for the Mitman Addition Neighborhood Association  
October 2004

## ***The State of the Neighborhood***

by Sandy Paris

Thanks to Sylvia Berman our neighborhood association was resurrected September 2003. The neighborhood meetings have given us an opportunity to meet more of our neighbors, discuss our concerns with one another and develop a working relationship with our council person, Vice-Mayor, Fred Ronstadt. Our thanks to him and assistants, Alexis Hover and her predecessor, Lisa Cuestas.

Over the past year, Mitman neighbors have discussed the traffic problems throughout our neighborhood and neighboring Thunderbird Heights, Wilmot Desert Estates. At the September 8 meeting, Alexis gave an update on Mitman's request for a **Traffic Mitigation Study** whereby a letter was submitted to the City of Tucson, Department of Transportation by Fred Ronstadt. The study will take place during November 2004. Allow at least 3 weeks for a report which will offer suggestions and/or solutions. Issues such as the volume of vehicular traffic, speeding, noise-level late night and early morning hours and the garbage left by people passing through the neighborhood have been addressed. Hopefully, the traffic study will give suggestions to put solutions into action and resolve our concerns.

## ***Mitman Neighborhood Association meetings for 2004-2005***

The Mitman meetings for the upcoming year will be held at Sewell School, 425 N. Sahuara Avenue, starting at 6:30pm. Scheduled dates are:

**2004: October 13, November 10, December 8; 2005: January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, and May 11.** Since the school is closed to meetings in the summer we should decide by March 2005 if we would like to continue meeting June through August and select another location. Options are the Wilmot Library, Bookman's at Speedway and Wilmot, or the soon to open Ward 6 offices near Speedway and Country Club at 3202 E. First Street.

**Reminder postcards** for monthly meetings are mailed about one week prior to the date. This newsletter will supplant the October meeting postcard. The next postcard mailing will be for the November 10 meeting.

### **October 13 agenda:**

- Report from Neighborhood Police
- Representative from Department of Neighborhood Resources to discuss guidelines for a successful neighborhood association

The City of Tucson, its officers and employees, its Department of Neighborhood Resources and all other offices neither agree nor disagree with the views expressed or implied in this communication and are not responsible therefor. The distribution requestor is solely responsible.

### ***YOU can make a Difference***

Each of us can make a difference by attending the meetings, getting more involved, and try to keep our neighborhood a good place to live and maybe get to know our neighbors better. The annual vote for Mitman Neighborhood Association officers will be on November 10.

Nominations will be made from the floor and/or you may contact Sandy Paris 745-0760.

The bylaws state:

- The membership of this association shall be residents, property owners or businesses within the neighborhood.
- A voting member shall be a household or business within the boundaries of the neighborhood. Each household or business within the neighborhood shall be entitled to one vote.
- Dues will be determined by the voting members. Yearly dues are to be \$5 per home.
- The voting members of the neighborhood association shall nominate and elect the officers of the association.

### ***Treasury Report***

Treasurer, Jim Reidy

Yearly dues will be collected at the October and November meetings. If you would like to mail a check for your dues, make the check payable to Mitman Neighborhood Association. Mail check to R. J. Reidy, 5728 E. Baker Street, Tucson, AZ 85711. Currently, we have a total of \$136.00.

### ***Noise Abatement and Control at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base***

by Jim Reidy

The Air Force is working hard to minimize excess aircraft noise surrounding Davis Monthan Air Force Base (DM) and the City of Tucson. DM is involved with training new pilots to the A-10 aircraft. This requires many take-offs and landings and low approaches both day and night. Some of this training has been shifted to Libbey Army Airfield in Sierra Vista. This type of activity at DM is limited to daylight; nighttime activity ceases at 10:30pm. Quiet hours are 10:30pm - 6:00am. Sometimes, there are exceptions as directed by higher headquarters.

The other aircraft at DM include the C-130's and Reserve, rescue helicopters, HC-130 search/rescue, F-16, and some transit aircraft. Snowbird (National Guard) aircraft come here to use the Gila Bend Bombing Range. The notable excess noise in this category are the toronado aircraft from Scotland as agreed to by the Department of Defense. The remaining noise factor is caused by F-16's owned by the Arizona Guard, transit aircraft, commercial airliners, and private aircraft using Tucson International Airport. These are contributing factors: approximately 30%.

To alleviate noise factors, DM has diverted student landing and associate training to Libbey Airfield in Sierra Vista. 80% of take-offs from DM are aligned to the south since take-offs require more power, thus, producing more noise. This necessitates landing approaches which require less power, requires flights over the city. Any night flights are to be completed by 10:30pm except those directed by higher headquarters. These exceptions will be published when possible. It has been noted that 85% of noise complaints come from the same callers. The remainder of the citizens of Tucson accept the inconvenience as the cost of freedom.

[This is a report from a meeting at DM that Mr. Reidy was able to attend in July 2004. This article does not imply Mitman Neighborhood members or residents have complained about the noise level.]

### ***Stormwater Management in Mitman***

by Louis Bright

Here in Mitman, this last monsoon season was one that brought us just about enough rain to keep us from our drought conditions but not enough rain to fill our streets. Typical of Tucson, some areas had more rain than us and experienced street and wash flooding.

There are certain areas we have been aware of in Mitman that will flood anytime we get a good rain. Sahuara and Van Buren Streets are not only roadways but are also designated drainage ways which were washes before our homes were built. Problems also occur during most storms at Fifth Street near Sewell School and Speedway on the southside of the street, flooding business properties.

The building practices in the 1950's was to place streets and homes on the land without grading and reengineering the land to facilitate drainage. In a subdivision built today, lots will drain from the backyard to the front.

In properties adjacent to Van Buren and Sahuara, the yards will drain from south to north the same way that the streets flow which is towards the Rillito River. While the houses on our east to west streets rarely have any problem with standing water, many of our homes which are close to Van Buren and Sahuara back up with water. Many of the homes on the south side of these streets will have a block wall in their backyard adjacent to the alley. This is a good idea as it will keep out water from draining through your yard. For those of us who live in houses on the north side of the street having a wall in the backyard would keep the stormwater in and make a swimming pool out of the yard. We also need to make sure that our yards and alleys are kept clear so that stormwater will not pond in our yards.

Easements need to be kept cleared of debris and weeds. Maintenance of easements are the responsibility of homeowners, not the City of Tucson. The improvements that we make in our yards can help minimize our flooding problems. Trees and landscaping berms can help establish desert plants in your yard that will not depend heavily on supplemental watering and save money on your water bill. By doing this we help keep our neighborhood attractive, conserve water, and help minimize flooding.

### ***Future committees and topics***

Suggestions to delve more into certain issues have been brought up by a variety of members. These include graffiti, illegal activities, questions about making changes to the bylaws, more structure to our monthly meetings and as an association, encouraging and partnering with our neighborhood businesses. Even if you cannot serve on a project, you might have ideas for the newsletter such as topics you would like to hear about. Some of these issues might need a committee, an advocacy group, or just an interested individual who has the time and commitment. Please attend meetings or ask a neighbor if they are going and have them voice

your concerns. The Association We have only been up and running for one year but I think the feeling has been mutual between all of us whether we've only gone to one meeting or several. We care about our neighborhood and our neighbors. Many of us have been here a long time (one I know of since 1952!) and some are very new, so, let's pool our willingness to give a little time to our neighborhood and neighbors and reap a wonderful neighborhood to live in.

*Mitman Businesses are invited and welcome to any of our meetings! Join us at the next one, October 13, at Sewell School.*

*For more information contact Sandy Paris at 745-1721*

***Useful Phone Numbers***

Fred Ronstadt and Alexis Hover : 791-4601

Non-emergency Police: 791-5304 ext. 2406

Graffiti Abatement: 791-7823

Noise: 791-4452

Potholes: 791-3191

Zoning Code Violations: 791-5550

Weeds: 791-3171

JunkCars: 791-4444

Dated Material

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NEIGHBORHOOD**

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